

Pat. No. 5,975,714
Reply dated 5/11/05
Reply to Office Action of March 15, 2005

PATENT REEXAMINATION

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

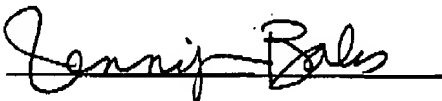
Claims 1-21 are subject to reexamination. The Examiner has rejected claims 1-4 and 6-9 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Konotchick 5,818,132 in view of Wohler 4,140,932. The Examiner has rejected claims 5 and 10-21 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Konotchick in view of Wohler and Schaller et al 4,760,504. Applicant has not amended any of claims 1-21, but on May 16, 2005 added new claims 22-34 to more particularly claim additional aspects of that which the inventors consider to be their invention.

In response to a telephone interview between Applicant's attorney Jennifer Bales and Examiner John Ward, in which he stated that he felt the omission of the term "hollow" in new claim 22 resulted in a broadening from the claims of the original patent, Applicant has now amended claim 22 to add the term "hollow".

Applicant submits that none of the claims are broader than any of the original claims in this reexamination application. Further, Applicant submits that no new subject matter is introduced in these new claims. Reconsideration of the claim rejections and consideration of the new claims is hereby requested. As all of the claims now in the application appear to be patentable, applicant respectfully requests that the reexamination be dismissed and the patent reaffirmed as soon as possible.

Respectfully submitted,
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